

**Safety First**

(Address of Mr. M. J. Wise before the Mississippi Teachers Association at Meridian)

Madam President, Ladies and Gentlemen:

As Staff Officer-Operation, of Mobile and Ohio Railroad, the Gulf, Mobile and Northern Railroad, and the Southern Railroad in Mississippi, three railroad lines whose principal mileage is in the State of Mississippi, I have general charge of the safety work on these lines. On behalf of their management, as well as myself, I want to acknowledge my appreciation of the permission that has been given me to speak for a few minutes on the danger of children trespassing on railroad property, and solicit your influence in minimizing this practice.

At the outset I want to confess to a slight embarrassment in talking to a gathering of school teachers, for the reason, I think, that since childhood I have in some way carried with me the idea that school teachers were endowed with a special quality or kind of knowledge that ordinary people did not possess. Notwithstanding this, however, I hope that I may be able to impress you with a feeling of the great importance of this matter to the children in your charge, and my feelings as to the influence of teachers, which I believe to be as great if not greater in many instances than that of parents, emboldens me to believe that they can do more to promote ideas of safety in the mind of a child than any other agency, personal or otherwise.

I am constantly having evidence of this influence to which I have referred brought to my attention by my young son, and I am glad to say that it is of the highest character both mentally and morally. No matter what subject is under discussion in the family circle, if "my teacher" has expressed herself in regard to it, that is the last word with him. I am convinced that this is not an isolated case, but is generally the relationship between teacher and pupil. It is for this reason especially I am anxious to present to you as graphically as I can the menace that is constantly threatening the lives and limbs of our children, and solicit your co-operation in the matter of inculcating in the minds of your pupils a realization of the dangers that

threaten them and how they are to be avoided.

I am sure you will be surprised, as I was when I studied the statistics as to the accidents to children trespassing on railroad property, at the very large number that were either killed or injured, and when I refer to accidents caused from trespassing, I mean personal injuries that were due to walking on railroad tracks and riding on railroad trains and cars when they had no right to do so. Can you realize that during 1917, the last year for which I have available data, that there were in the United States 5407 people killed and 4100 injured from trespassing, and that about one-fourth of the killed and injured were children? Does it seem possible to you that during the past ten years approximately 103,000 people have been killed and injured in this way, and of this number about 33,000 were children? Think of the sorrow in 33,000 homes, and then think further of the loss of future citizens of the United States, and that all this might have been prevented by these children keeping off railroad tracks and cars.

I am sure you are all appreciative of the value of illustration in favorable impressing on a child's mind the lessons you desire to teach, and often by a story or a picture a precept can be taught more effectively than by simply stating a fact. There are quite a number of stories that have been written by children who have been crippled warning others of the danger of using railroad property as a place to play, and the National Safety Council, a National organization for the promotion of accident prevention, has printed some very effective pictures illustrative of how children are killed and injured while on railroad property, where they ought not to be. Any teacher who is sufficiently interested can obtain these by applying to railroad agents for them. I have in mind one of the little stories referred to, written by a boy nicknamed Harry Hop the train, because of the fact that he lost a leg by jumping on and off moving cars. He wrote the story for the purpose of dissuading other children from playing on railroad property. I am sure you will be interested in his "Seven Nevers", because they are right to the point and refer to things we railroad men, as well as others,

often see children do.

Never cross the tracks by night or by day.

Without stopping to listen and look each way.

Never walk along the railroad ties—

You can't always trust your ears and eyes.

Never hop a freight, for nothing quite heals

The wound received under grinding wheels.

Never, on hot or sunny day,

Sit beneath box cars to rest or play.

Never crawl under a car of freight

When the crossing's blocked—play safe and wait.

Never board or alight from a train that is moving.

Accidents, daily, its dangers are proving.

Never play games 'round the tracks at the station—

There are much safer places to seek recreation.

There is another method I think you will also find effective in presenting this matter to children, that is in illustrating what you desire to impress on their minds, to do so by comparison or contrast. For instance, we grown people know, or think we know, the danger of trespassing on railroad tracks. I am sure though, that if we lived in a small settlement on the edge of a jungle in India or Africa, and we absolutely knew that a man-eating tiger inhabited that jungle, parents and teachers would not let a day go by without cautioning and seeing that the children of the settlement kept as far as possible away from the vicinity of the danger zone. Yet how often do we caution children to stay away from the property on which railroad trains and cars are operated, and there is the same if not greater element of danger in the latter as in the former. Trains and cars are operated with powerful locomotives which cannot be stopped instantly, and children, thoughtless, and grown people as well, place themselves in position or act in such a way as often to court accident.

In childhood, boys and girls acquire ideas and habits more readily than at any other period of life. Pope in his Moral Essays aptly expresses my thought when he says:

"Tis education forms the common mind

As the twig is bent the tree's inclined."

If we can imbue the minds of our boys and girls with the safety habit while they are young, we may be the instrumentality that may preserve some of them for future lives of happiness and usefulness, who would otherwise be killed or go through life as cripples, and further, this habit if acquired in childhood may result in preventing them untold sorrow and agony in later years.

I had come under my personal observation not very long ago, a case where a man was walking between the main line and the side track of a railroad; there was a freight train standing on the side track, and a passenger train was moving on the main line, and notwithstanding the fact that the bell on the passenger engine was ringing, this man, without looking back, stepped in front of the passenger train and was killed. He evidently thought the freight train

was pulling out of the side track and that the bell of the freight engine was warning him. Now the point I want to make is that if this man had been taught and impressed with the safety habit he would probably not have been on the track, but would have taken another route from his work to his home. He saved only about a hundred feet in using the railroad track as a foot path, and lost his life.

In conclusion, I want to again solicit your co-operation in the work our safety organization is doing to keep children from trespassing on railroad property, and your influence, which is great, in teaching children the safety habit.

I thank you for your considerate attention.

**Colds Cause Grip and Influenza**

LAXATIVE BROMO QUININE Tablets remove the cause. There is only one "Bromo Quinine." E. W. GROVE'S signature on box. 50c.



WHY TRAINED NURSE Am I?

**MULES For Sale**

We have thirty-five head of **Missouri Mules**

from one to four years old.

We will sell the mules from one to **any number you want**

or we will trade them to you.

These mules will make anybody plenty of money that has grass to turn them on.

We also have two good mares, weighing 1100 pounds, and one

**Good Saddle Horse.**

This stock will be found at the **Whiteside Barn.**

**MOSS & SONS.**

**STYLEPLUS CLOTHES**

To help you select a good suit of clothes

Selecting satisfactory clothes is apt to be a troublesome job unless you follow a regular rule.

You will see some men who always get good clothes.

You will see others who are sometimes dressed well.

How can you be sure of hitting the bull's-eye every time?

By making it your regular rule to buy your clothes at our store, the Styleplus Store in your town.

Then you will get Style: Snap and swing for the smart dressers. A good appearance for mature men.

Then you will get quality: Styleplus have the dependable quality that is built on reliable fabrics and materials, carefully tailored.

Then you will pay a moderate price: For Styleplus even now cost no more than was always considered reasonable for good clothes.

Start the habit today at our store, the Styleplus store in Okolona.



**Styleplus Clothes \$25-\$30-\$35-\$40**

The sleeve ticket tells the price

We are not only prepared to meet your needs in good clothes, but we handle Dry Goods, Notions, Shoes, etc. of right quality, and sell for less.

**McDUFFIE & COMPANY,**

**THE REAL CASH STORE**

OKOLONA,

MISSISSIPPI

**NOTICE!**

**WE WISH TO ANNOUNCE THAT THE COLORED HOSPITAL**

At the GILMORE SANITARIUM has just been completed.

(1) It has concrete floors, plastered walls, and bath service throughout, and will accommodate ten patients.

(2) This is the only colored hospital in this section of the country and we are inviting the physicians to help us make it a success.

(3) We believe that patients in this small hospital will get much better attention than they would get in a larger one where they are more or less crowded.

(4) The colored hospital will be operated on the same liberal principles as the sanitarium, namely: All reputable physicians may bring their patients here and have the entire equipment of the hospital at their service. We shall continue to take pride in giving our personal attention to all our patients.

**GILMORE SANITARIUM**

Amory, Mississippi

MISS ERNESTINE BRYSON, R. N., Supt.

C. R. BERRY, M. D. Local Surgeon.